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Temperamental Weather Disrupts Florida Watermelon Season

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by *Jordan Okumura-Wright*

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Temperamental weather this Spring, most recently with Tropical Storm Andrea, has kept Florida's watermelon growers on their toes.

The state experienced above-average temperatures in February and into March prompting what they thought would be an early crop; then cold weather hit followed by warm weather and then another bout of cold. In the Southern part of the State, there was a late frost in March, and a frost in the Northern part of the State during the planting season.

On average Florida's watermelon crop was delayed by approximately two-three weeks. One grower tells us that fluctuations in weather conditions like they have had this year create disruptions in supply. These disruptions come at different times that can't always be predicted.

Most recently, Tropical Storm Andrea drenched the ground in Florida, preventing some growers from getting into the fields. Georgia and the Carolinas also felt the storm's effects.

Volume seems to be coming back strong, a Florida grower notes, but weather has thrown off timing. With the track record this year, there may be fewer supplies and higher prices for Fourth of July holiday.

So much can happen between now and the 4th, so stay tuned!

Watermelon

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andnowuknow.com
2005 Capitol Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95811
P: (916) 346-4511

Press & Editorial
pr@andnowuknow.com
P: (916) 346-4511

Sales and Advertising
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